

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Suriname: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRSR002
GLIDE n° [FL-2008-000095-SUR](#)
Operations update no. 4
11 March 2009

Period covered by this Operations

Update: 12 December 2008 to 17 February 2009.

Appeal target (current): CHF 911,135
(USD 751,235 or EUR 592,038).

Appeal coverage: 100%

Appeal history:

- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF): CHF 140,000 (USD 133,333 OR EUR 86,047) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond.
- Emergency Appeal launched on 27 June 2008 for CHF 381,174 (USD 363,022 or EUR 234,280) in cash, in-kind, or services to support the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) to assist 3,000 families (15,000 beneficiaries) for six months.
- Revised Emergency Appeal launched on 27 July 2008 for CHF 844,295 (USD 861,181 or EUR 518,927) to include an additional relief distribution and additional capacity-building activities.
- Revised budget and extended time frame on 23 January 2009, from CHF 844,295 to CHF 911,135, to reflect additional funds received for an additional 2 months, until 27 February 2009 to continue the recovery and rehabilitation activities.



A Suriname Red Cross volunteer registering beneficiaries to receive planting materials. Source: Suriname Red Cross

Summary:

The Suriname Red Cross, with support from the International Federation, and in conjunction with local partners, conducted food security assessments in the flood affected area after the emergency relief phase activities had been completed. Assessment findings confirmed the continued vulnerability to current food shortages and the likely escalation of food insecurity in the flood affected regions. Consequently, a collaborative effort has been underway to plan and implement recovery and community risk reduction activities in the food security sector. This fourth operations update focuses on the completion of flood recovery and community risk reduction activities through 12 February 2009.

A Final Report will be made available by 27 May 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<Click here to view the interim financial report; or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Heavy rainfall, with high peaks in the week from 1 to 7 June 2008, led to the overflow of the Tapanahony and Marowijne rivers and consequently to the flooding of villages that lay along the riverbanks. As the water receded it became clear that many life sustaining crops were destroyed. The most affected areas, the Tapanahony, Lawa, upper Marowijne and Coeroeni, are in southern and eastern Suriname. Reports from the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (National Coordinatie Centrum Rampenbeheersing – NCCR) indicated that 30 percent of the livestock, 65 percent of crops and 90 percent of the fishing industry were affected.

The Suriname government and several NGOs responded to the emergency by coordinating efforts and sharing information. Damage and needs assessments of the affected areas were conducted. The government commenced relief assistance by distributing food parcels during the first weeks after the flooding. After the government distributions, the Suriname Red Cross commenced distributions of food and non-food items to the most vulnerable, totaling 2,554 families.

After the rain subsided and river levels decreased, families were able to fish and hunt, crops were salvaged and used for consumption and land was prepared for the next planting season. However, planting materials readily available amounted to only approximately 30 percent of normal planting levels. In addition, rising transportation costs have made the purchase of food in the affected communities very expensive, and the variety of food products available for purchase scarce. These combined factors have resulted in a continuous food security problem in the villages affected by the floods. Currently, there are no mechanisms to stabilize food availability and access in some areas.

The International Federation/Suriname Red Cross are grateful for the generous donations to this appeal that made it possible to add interventions specific to the continued food insecurity. Subsequently, a new plan of action was developed focusing on sustainable, improved food security and the appeal timeframe was extended to complete the implementation of this new plan of action. The overall goal of the new plan is to improve the current and long-term food security situation and to take preventative steps to mitigate and help avoid vulnerability to future flooding.

Coordination and partnerships

This operation has been handed over from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama to the Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO) in Trinidad and Tobago. The CRRO will provide Federation support to this operation through the end of the appeal and final reporting.

Generous contributions from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and Partner National Societies such as the Netherlands Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Canadian Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross Societies, made it possible to have a longer-term disaster response approach, allowing for additional post emergency and rehabilitation activities, capacity-building and community risk mitigation.

The SRC has expanded its partnerships to include organizations that have technical expertise in food security and ties within the communities affected by the floods. Specifically, the SRC has partnered with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Also, the SRC has incorporated volunteers from the United States Peace Corps located in the flood affected communities in its food security activities.

In November, the SRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IICA that provides a framework for working together in the long-term in the food security sector. The first joint actions took place in October and will continue beyond the end of this appeal.

Suriname Red Cross has closely coordinated with the NCCR, the United National Development Programme (UNDP), and the IICA to identify what other organizations are doing to meet the needs of those families affected. The Suriname Red Cross will focus on the immediate needs of those most vulnerable to food shortage and inaccessibility of planting material for subsistence farming. The SRC will benefit from its relationship with IICA and IICA expertise to provide continuity and sustainability.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The SRC completed the following activities from July to November 2008 as reported in the previous operations updates:

- Two rounds of relief distributions, which included food parcels, buckets, jerry cans, and chlorine tablets to 2,554 families. The chlorine tablets were provided by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through the NCCR.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion to 2,554 families.
- Procurement of contingency stocks including buckets, jerry cans and kitchen sets.
- Capital equipment purchases for use on this and future disaster operations including an all-terrain vehicle, satellite phones and electricity generators.
- Capacity-building trainings in water and sanitation, psychosocial support, media interaction, chainsaw safety, safety and security in disaster response, and food security assessment.

During the food security assessments conducted in the flood affected areas between October and December, and subsequent meetings with community leaders and residents, several consistent factors were observed that impacted the agricultural and food security situation in the communities. The observed factors were poor soil quality, inefficient slash and burn agricultural and planting techniques, lack of crop diversification, and the impact of climate change on crops. During these assessments the information was gathered in a multilateral approach using observation, interviews with community members and agricultural technical tools such as soil sample analysis. Using the information collected from the assessments and meetings, a plan of action was developed in which improved planting material, trainings (both theoretical and practical), and ongoing agricultural support could be provided. The overall objective was to bridge the gap between emergency relief and recovery, and to prevent escalation of food insecurity by providing at risk communities with updated tools, resources and know-how of sustainable subsistence agriculture. The plan incorporated a short-term intervention with long-term sustainable food security approaches.

The work plan for recovery and disaster vulnerability mitigation focused on the Kwamalasamutu area and communities in the Upper Marowijne region. The specific communities were chosen based on the following factors: the communities were affected by the floods and received emergency aid through this appeal, the resources and capacities of the SRC and its project partners, and the known plans of other flood response actors in Suriname. These communities will benefit from the added supply of planting materials and community-based programmes, and will be supported by the SRC initially and IICA in the long-term. Targeted communities and the National Society will be better prepared for future flooding as well as for the likely high negative impact in years to come due to the increase in food prices and the effects of climate change.

This support consists of the following:

- Enhance and scale up capacities of food production.

- Continue to contribute to the restoration and improvement of the basic living conditions and the resilience of the affected population by investing in development of community based food security and livelihood programmes to help the most affected to become more resilient.

An internal evaluation is planned at the end of this operation in order to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the disaster response and generate lessons learnt to improve future performance, build on past experience and, contribute to knowledge-sharing within the Federation and international humanitarian community.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions	
Objective: 3,000 families (15,000 people) will benefit from the distribution of food parcels and NFI items (buckets).	
Expected results	Activities planned
3,000 of the most affected families have received 2 food parcels; one for 15 days and one for 30 days as well as one bucket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
Contingency stocks of non food items for 1,000 families are in place to be used if needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency stock of NFI will be purchased in-country to support 1,000 affected families in inaccessible areas.

Progress

The objective stated the total number of beneficiary families would be 3,000. After all assessments were undertaken and the needs had become clear, the number of beneficiaries targeted and registered to receive relief distributions was reduced. Additionally, not all families returned from French Guyana and other places where they had sought refuge after the flooding. The actual number of beneficiary families that received relief distributions is 2,554.

All relief distribution related activities are complete. A detailed description of the completion of this and other objectives can be found in previous operations updates. The last operations update can be accessed in the following link: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDRSR00203.pdf>

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 3,000 families (15,000 people) in the affected areas for 6 months.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The beneficiaries benefit from water and sanitation activities, such as provision of safe drinking water and hygiene awareness-raising activities to prevent water-borne diseases from spreading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion practices and likelihood of water and sanitation related diseases in the affected population. • Initiate a hygiene promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting 15,000 people in the affected areas. (The focus of the campaign will be identified according to the needs and assessment.) • Provide supplies to be used in the health promotion campaign.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplies and visibility material should be directly related to the hygiene promotion campaign. Those can include printed materials (posters, flyers, etc), manuals, educational materials, etc). Distributing 6,000 household level water storage (i.e. 10-liter collapsible) jerry cans to 3,000 families.
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Progress

All water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion related activities are complete. A detailed description of the completion of this and other objectives can be found in previous operations updates.

National Society Capacity-Building

Objective: The capacity of the Suriname Red Cross to respond to disasters and ability to communicate during emergencies will be enhanced by capacity-building workshops on Water and Sanitation and PSP and trainings on the use of the IT equipment.

Expected results	Activities planned
The SRC enhances its Water and Sanitation and Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct 1 training on Water and Sanitation for 15 volunteers and staff in September; Conduct 1 PSP training in-country to train 15 volunteers and staff in October: In both cases, the following steps will be followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of the participants Selection of the topics to be addressed Preparation of the workshop Reporting on the workshop
SRC staff and volunteers are trained on the use of IT equipment, to ensure effective communication in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of IT equipment previously purchased by the National Society. Conduct trainings on the use of IT equipment by IT Consultant and RIT member.

Progress

All national society capacity-building activities are complete. A detailed description of the completion of this objective can be found in the previous operations update.

Recovery and Rehabilitation

Objective: The most vulnerable are provided with planting materials to replace lost staple crops.

Expected results	Activities planned
Families affected by the floods in the upper Marowijne and Coeroeni regions have enough planting materials for subsistence crops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute planting materials to replace rotted and damaged crops.

Progress

Upper Marowijne Region

In December suppliers and farmers were contacted regarding procurements of planting materials. Starting on 3 January, planting materials were procured, transported, and distributed. Seeds and seedlings of various vegetables including plantains, corn, napi, Chinese tanja, okra, calaila, callaloo and long beans were purchased in Paramaribo. Cassava sticks were then picked up along the villages in the Albina area and transported by boat to the distribution points in the Upper Marowijne region. The distributions of planting materials took place from 6 January to 12 January. Additional planting materials are being distributed as part of the community trainings that began as of 13 February in both regions, the

Upper Marowijne region and Kwamalasamutu. Planting materials were distributed in the following communities:

Community	Number of Beneficiary Families
Kwamalasamutu	10
Godolo	95
Drietabiki	85
Steolmanseiland	140
Agaigoni	65
Karmel	20
Ganini	66
Akonkaba	85
Total	566

Community Risk Reduction

Objective: The most vulnerable are better prepared to withstand the effects of flooding.

Expected results	Activities planned
Selected communities in the flood affected area have taken steps to mitigate effects to livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify land that is less susceptible to flooding. Identify crops that are less susceptible to rotting and provide adequate nutrition. Identify alternative seasonal calendar to reduce impact of flooding. Training on nutrition and food preparation.
Families have livelihoods in the villages where they reside in terms of income generation, and resources and supplies for food production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish distribution, multiplication, and training centres for income generation food production. Trainings provided on income generation possibilities.

Progress

Kwamalasamutu and surrounding area

Communities were selected to participate in this phase of the project based on their noticeable state of food insecurity and the severity to which the population has been affected by the recent floods and changing weather patterns. Kwamalasamutu and the surrounding villages are particularly vulnerable to food security problems due to its extreme isolation and lack of agricultural diversification. The change in weather patterns and increased rains has caused many of the cassava plots, the main staple crop, to become oversaturated with water. As a result, the roots start to rot and die before the crops can be harvested. Another problem that occurs every two to three years is an infestation by leaf cutter ants (also known as Acoushi ants). The ants are attracted to cassava and other traditional plots of the Amerindians and can ruin entire crops, leaving the village with little to no food.

The goal of the community risk reduction objective is not focused on obtaining a large amount of participants or solely distributing materials, but to gather a serious and dedicated number of community members. Once the programme is completed the goal is for these participating villagers to serve as a local resource on improved agricultural techniques in the community. In addition, the project was structured with the aim that these participants could use the information they received on their own individual plots. By taking this approach, the project is able to build capacity and empower participants to become trainers, educate their fellow community members, and have the participants' plots demonstrate the effectiveness of what they have learnt. Thus, the plots and gardens work as a catalyst in having the improved

agricultural systems provided by SRC and IICA and then these can be adopted by other members of the communities.

Community surveys and food security assessments were conducted from 10 to 12 December in Kwamalasamutu and the surrounding villages. Five SRC and IICA field team members met with community members, organizations and leaders to propose and discuss the project and its objectives. Nineteen participants were registered for the agriculture and food security micro-project. Eleven took part in first workshops in which identified problems and desirable new crops were discussed. Soil samples were also taken during the December visit.

In the second visit, community participants further discussed rules for participation in the project, the traditional agricultural practices and techniques they use. A question and answer session was also conducted. In addition, a theoretical workshop covering plant and crop life cycles and concepts affecting food security, such as climate change, and a practical workshop focusing on planting and cultivation of vegetables took place. Participants worked as a project team to make communal seedbeds. At the conclusion of this exercise participants were given seeds and tools for their individual plots that they agreed to identify and clear as part of the project.

Challenges

The sustainable food security intervention is a more technical and new approach for the implementing National Society, the SRC. Variant factors such were taken into account for the food security intervention, including: the planting and harvesting seasons and the time needed for adequate agricultural and nutritional training and monitoring. Some of the main challenges encountered were the remoteness of the villages, number of visits needed to the benefiting regions and high cost of transportation.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The Suriname Red Cross has disseminated information to the local media to inform the public of the response and recovery activities as the operation evolved. In addition, film footage of the operation activities started during the second food distributions in September and continued through the food security assessments in November. A documentary will be produced from the footage and made available at the final reporting stage.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Suriname: Marja Naarendorp, President of the Suriname Red Cross; email: surcross@sr.net; phone: (597) 498 410; fax: (597) 464 780.
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Robin Younger, Operations Coordinator for Suriname Floods; email: robin.younger@ifrc.org; phone: (868) 628 2439; fax: (868) 628 9715.
- In Trinidad and Tobago: Tanya Wood, Regional Representative for the Caribbean; email: tanya.wood@ifrc.org; phone: (868) 624 1557; fax: (868) 627 9627.
- In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Americas Zone; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0254; fax: (507) 317 1304.
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**[<Interim financial report below;
or click here to return to the title page>](#)**

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSR002 - Suriname - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/6-2009/1
Budget Timeframe	2008/6-2009/2
Appeal	MDRSR002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	911,135					911,135
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
Canadian Red Cross	51,000					51,000
ECHO	523,200					523,200
Japanese Red Cross	30,640					30,640
Kuwait Red Crescent	20,400					20,400
Netherlands Red Cross	161,000					161,000
C1. Cash contributions	786,240					786,240
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
ECHO	120,627					120,627
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	120,627					120,627
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	906,867					906,867
D. Total Funding = B + C	906,867					906,867
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	906,867					906,867
E. Expenditure	-879,266					-879,266
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	27,601					27,601

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRSR002 - Suriname - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/6-2009/1
Budget Timeframe	2008/6-2009/2
Appeal	MDRSR002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		911,135					911,135	
Supplies								
Food	189,033	175,170				175,170	13,863	
Seeds,Plants	36,540	8,065				8,065	28,475	
Medical & First Aid		53				53	-53	
Teaching Materials	39,120	1,241				1,241	37,879	
Utensils & Tools	105,342	63,934				63,934	41,408	
Total Supplies	370,035	248,463				248,463	121,572	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	40,000						40,000	
Computers & Telecom	7,595	8,974				8,974	-1,379	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	2,760	2,752				2,752	8	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	50,355	11,726				11,726	38,629	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	6,339	7,701				7,701	-1,362	
Distribution & Monitoring	238,613	261,427				261,427	-22,814	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	32,043	34,077				34,077	-2,034	
Total Transport & Storage	276,995	303,205				303,205	-26,210	
Personnel								
International Staff	3,850	-3,300				-3,300	7,150	
Regionally Deployed Staff	34,481	34,783				34,783	-302	
National Staff		199				199	-199	
National Society Staff	15,450	28,654				28,654	-13,204	
Total Personnel	53,781	60,336				60,336	-6,555	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	31,256	42,004				42,004	-10,748	
Total Workshops & Training	31,256	42,004				42,004	-10,748	
General Expenditure								
Travel	34,970	32,732				32,732	2,238	
Information & Public Relation	14,369	7,265				7,265	7,104	
Office Costs	6,098	4,847				4,847	1,251	
Communications	8,652	8,321				8,321	331	
Professional Fees	4,500	2,420				2,420	2,080	
Financial Charges	900	15,933				15,933	-15,033	
Other General Expenses		422				422	-422	
Total General Expenditure	69,489	71,939				71,939	-2,450	
Programme Support								
Program Support	59,224	56,877				56,877	2,347	
Total Programme Support	59,224	56,877				56,877	2,347	
Services								
Services & Recoveries		4,234				4,234	-4,234	
Total Services		4,234				4,234	-4,234	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		80,482				80,482	-80,482	
Total Operational Provisions		80,482				80,482	-80,482	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	911,135	879,266				879,266	31,869	
VARIANCE (C - D)		31,869				31,869		